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Appeal to Public Opinion

THE Conference of the Four Heads of Government held in Geneva last July profoundly changed the international climate. It expressed the desires of the peoples. Public opinion will not allow the first results that have been achieved to be jeopardised; it cannot be satisfied with a mere truce in the Cold War.

Everyone is aware of the serious difficulties that the Four Foreign Ministers will have to overcome at the new conference due to open in Geneva on October 27th. A general settlement can be attained only by negotiations that will require mutual goodwill and tireless patience.

Whenever any agreement can be reached, however modest it may be, it must be achieved. Its conclusion will open the way to fresh developments. An agreement on security would speed disarmament. An agreement on disarmament would help to solve the problems of security and the reunification of Germany.

In the sphere of disarmament the viewpoints are now so close together that its realisation now depends only on the goodwill of the governments. In the sphere of the development of international contacts and exchanges, first steps have already been taken. Public opinion will not tolerate that disagreement on any one point of the agenda at Geneva should be made an excuse for cancelling this progress and making the conference fail.

Because fear has receded, because mistrust has grown less, the burden of the Cold War is today becoming intolerable. People want the benefits of the relaxation of tension to be brought into their daily life. They want a reduction of armaments to result in a better life for all, and to end for ever the hateful threat of nuclear weapons.

The peoples will not tolerate a return to the Cold War. They demand further steps towards international co-operation. They demand the abandonment of the policy of military blocs. They want the work of negotiation which has started to be extended to all parts of the earth still subject to the policy of coercion and Cold War.

The World Council of Peace calls on every man and woman, every people, to act to make the Geneva spirit prevail in all countries and on all continents.

THE BUREAU OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF PEACE

Vienna, 13th October, 1955.

Control of Disarmament is Possible

by Professor J. D. Bernal, F.R.S. (Great Britain)

On this page we present a memorandum on the question of control of disarmament which was communicated to the Bureau of the World Council of Peace by Professor J. D. Bernal, F.R.S., Vice-President of the Council.

THE second point laid down for the discussion of the four Foreign Ministers is that of the limitation and control of armaments. On this question, although a general willingness to proceed was evident at Geneva, progress has subsequently been very slow, and obstacles have been set up which, if they are not removed, threaten not only any effective disarmament, but even general agreement between the powers.

It is of the utmost importance that public opinion be alerted on these points, so that they are not allowed, for lack of understanding to block further progress. Premier Bulganin's letter to President Eisenhower emphasises the anxiety that is already being felt that the disarmament talks are already being bogged down in technicalities which serve to conceal from the public the desire to maintain positions of force.

Two major issues of difference have emerged: the difficulties of linking limitations of military forces and conventional weapons with the prohibition of nuclear weapons and the problems of control of nuclear weapons themselves.

On the first there is an apparent reluctance to confirm general agreement of the proposals first made by the British and French Governments in 1952 for a limitation of armed forces which at that time had United States approval and was finally accepted by the Soviet Union in 1955. These proposals were made at a period when it was believed by the Atlantic Powers that they possessed a superiority in nuclear weapons. Now that this seems doubtful, they are inclined to make limitation conditional on the control and elimination of nuclear weapons. As, however, they have agreed

> "that no effective means of controlling the elimination of nuclear weapons can be devised" (The Times, 30th September, 1955)

the question of limitation of forces is in danger of being postponed to an indefinite future and the most that can be hoped for is "a limitation of conventional weapons alone."

Technically, everything is being made to depend on the possibility of control of nuclear weapons and here the situation is by no means as black as some people are anxious to prove. Expert study shows that control of production of nuclear weapons is just as possible now as it was at the time of the Kramers' report of 1947. The main new difficulty is that in the interval stockpiles have grown and it is clear that there must be some means of checking them. Although here no one hundred per cent secure method can be devised, stockpiles can be checked within a margin of some 10% by studying the figures for rate of production of fissile materials and other essential components over a number of years. The margin that a dishonest government might hope to conceal would not furnish enough for an all-out offensive. The essential problem of control is not therefore a technical one but rather, on the one hand, of guarding against sudden attack and, on the other, of establishing a basis of mutual confidence.

For both of these objectives proposals have been made which need to be examined before control is pronounced impossible. On the first we have the Soviet proposals of inspectors at key points of concentration for aggression, aerodromes, ports, railway junctions; and the British proposal of a demilitarised zone. On the second there is the Eisenhower proposal of aerial photography which, as the Soviet spokesmen have suggested, should logically be extended to cover all bases. There is as well the French proposal to institute budgetary limitation. More important that any of these is undoubtedly the creation of a general atmosphere of trust, backed by public opinion, which should dissipate most of the fears and suspicions about the sincerity of disarmament proposals.

The first steps to this were taken at Geneva itself. Since then few have dared openly to oppose the Geneva spirit. Nevertheless, it would be an illusion to believe that the major proponents of the cold war have abandoned it. They are, for the moment, using their efforts to evade, under various technical excuses, taking any positive steps that would lead to genuine disarmament. There is even a danger that by making the second subject of the four Foreign Ministers' meeting dependent on the success of the first — that is, security and the German question — they may succeed in postponing its discussion while continuing and even accelerating the arms race.

It will be a major task of the peace movement in the ensuing months to see that this does not happen, to ensure that every possible means of disarmament is explored and to rally public opinion to secure effective abolition of nuclear weapons and limitation of armed forces.

London, October 10, 1955

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Proceedings of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace

(Vienna, October 12-13, 1955)

The Bureau of the World Council of Peace met in Vienna on October 12 in the building of the Secretariat of the World Council. In addition to the Bureau members seated round the blue covered table in the centre of the Yves Farge Room, pressmen were also present, including representatives of the major news agencies Reuter, United Press, Associated Press, Tass, A.D.N., Agence France Presse, Agence A.N.S.A., etc. The session, which continued on the following day, was devoted to a study of the international situation and the means which the World Peace Movement should use to develop the Geneva spirit and contribute to the success of the Foreign Ministers' Conference which recently opened in Geneva. At the end of its session the Bureau of the World Council issued an Appeal to Public Opinion which we print on Page One of this Bulletin. The first session opened with Mr. d'Astier de la Vigerie in the Chair.

1st Session

OPENING the session, **Mr. d'Astier de la Vigerie** (France), Vice-President of the World Council of Peace, who presided at the first session, apologised for the absence of the President of the World Council, Professor Joliot-Curie, who had been prevented from leaving Paris by his scientific obligations and his health.

He recalled that this session of the Bureau of the World Council was the first to be held since the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki and since the Conference of the Heads of Government at Geneva. It was also, he said, the first time the Bureau had met in Vienna since Austria had regained its independence, which he greeted as the fruit of East-West negotiations and compromise.

He went on to say that the Bureau considered that its discussions should be open to the public and had therefore invited the press to attend. The Peace Movement, in appealing to public opinion everywhere, wished at the same time to be under the control of that opinion.

It was proposed that this session make an appreciation of the international situation and examine the means the movement must apply to contribute to the Geneva spirit and to open up new perspectives on the eve of the Foreign Ministers' Conference. For many years the Peace Movement had called for this meeting, which was wanted by public opinion. It could be said that the Geneva Conference held in July was an historic event and the beginning of a major truce in the Cold War.

Mr. d'Astier then listed the positive facts which had followed: contacts and exchanges, both between governments and between various organisations; the Scientific Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, the meeting of the U.N. Disarmament Commission Sub-Committee, etc.

On the eve of the Foreign Ministers' Conference we may feel a reasonable optimism, he said.

The Peace Movement knew that the negotiations would be difficult; but bearing in mind the position of public opinion it was almost impossible to revert to the previous state of Cold War. The difficulties between East and West could be partly alleviated if both were resolved to make mutual concessions; and public opinion in East and West alike could play a decisive role in pushing the governments to make the necessary concesssions.

Mr. d'Astier reviewed the agenda for the Foreign Ministers' Conference:

— Security and German reunification;

— Disarmament;

— East-West contacts.

He pointed out that there were still considerable contradictions on the first point but that points of view on the other two had drawn closer together. He concluded by expressing the hope that even if the Conference did not result in general agreement, concrete results would at least be registered on the last two points of the agenda.

Mr. Ivor Montagu (Great Britain), Secretary of the World Council of Peace, first of all reviewed the results of the Geneva Conference and stressed the first points of agreement reached during the discussions between the representatives of China and the United States at Geneva. Taking up point by point the subjects to be dealt with by the four Foreign Ministers, Mr. Montagu examined the development of events since the Geneva Conference. He recalled the respective positions adopted at the time on the German problem and, in particular, the British position. But since then, he said, it had appeared that Mr. Dulles and Dr. Adenauer were not in agreement with this position.

With regard to disarmament, few precise facts were known concerning the work of the United Nations Disarmament Sub-Committee. However, a certain reverse seemed to have appeared in comparison with the earlier agreement. It could be seen from certain comments that efforts were being made to substitute an inspection plan for effective disarmament measures. In this connection, the speaker refuted certain standpoints which had been adopted on the impossibility of controlling nuclear disarmament, and cited Professor Bernal's* memorandum which showed the possibility of such control.

Great progress had been made in the field of cultural relations and the exchange of delegations and Mr. Montagu mentioned the most notable recent examples.

The situation was not without its negative aspects: the non-implementation of the Geneva agreements on Viet Nam, certain statements by military leaders in Great Britain and the United States, and the violent speeches of Mr. Dulles, Mr. Nixon and Mr. MacMillan.

Other aspects were positive: the problem of Malaya was nearing a solution, and in the United States and Great Britain a powerful peace trend was developing.

Concerning the United States, the speaker noted the reaction of public opinion to the events preceding Dien Bien Phu and when the question of the islands Quemoy and Matsu arose, and the will for peace expressed before the Geneva Conference of the Four Heads of Government.

In Great Britain there were developments not only in circles influenced by the peace movement, but also in very many pacifist and other organisations which had realised that any progress towards peace depended on public opinion.

Mr. Montagu saw proofs of this in the attitude of the Trades Union Congress to the question of atomic weapons and German rearmament; in the wide movement developing for reduction of national service and military expenditure; in the stand adopted by local Labour Parties before the Labour Party Conference; and in the attitude of a number of intellectuals including Professor J.B.S. Haldane, F.R.S., Earl Russell, Lord Boyd-Orr, and Professor C.F. Powell, F.R.S.

Speaking of the National Lobby Day which the British Peace Committee was organising for October 25, it was, he said, expected to be a great success.

In conclusion, Mr. Montagu said that in present circumstances the World Movement had above all to call on the Foreign Ministers to reach agreement, or at least to make progress towards agreement. Other demands were for restitution of the rights of the People's Republic of China and the solution of all outstanding problems in order to pave the way for co-operation between the Four Powers. Co-operation was the key for the establishment of peace.

Mr. Ambrogio Donini (Italy), after stressing the importance of the analysis of the international situation which the Bureau would make, only fifteen days before the Foreign Ministers' Conference, went on to point out that this analysis should not be restricted to such an appreciation but should put the problems of the peace movement in the forefront.

In Italy the greatest compliment had been paid to the Peace Movement by a section of the press that never mentioned it in the ordinary way when after Geneva it had written that the Peace Movement had finished its task and should now leave it to the diplomats to carry on. Mr. Donini pointed out that, on the contrary, it was more than ever necessary to stimulate the Movement and to call on public opinion to be vigilant and active. It may be the diplomats who sign the agreement, he said, but it is the weight of public opinion that makes them. In Italy the Movement had played a decisive part in influencing the trend of events and bringing about ensuing developments.

The Italian Peace Movement had wanted the Bureau to meet two months ago, not only to exchange experiences but to work out new lines of activity with regard to the difficulties which still had to be overcome and especially with regard to the propagandists of the Cold War whose activity was still in evidence. During the recent period the publications of the Secretariat of the World Council had limited themselves too much to being merely informative, and if the movement were not to do more than that it could not solve the major problems which still remained. What was wanted was to find new methods of work appropriate to the present situation and capable of bringing the statesmen to definite agreement.

The speaker quoted the example of the signature campaign against the preparations for atomic war as an effective factor in the mobilisation of public opinion, including people who had at the beginning been reserved or suspicious.

We had, he said, to face a new situation and therefore had to change our forms and methods of work, without forgetting that this campaign had helped to make current problems more understandable to the masses ot the people. It was thanks to the Movement's campaign that very many people had been able to welcome the results of Geneva as the result of their individual efforts, efforts on a greater scale than ever before.

The idea that Geneva was the result of the policy of strength had to be opposed, since it aimed to produce apathy among the peoples, who expected from new agreements not only a relaxation of international tension but an improvement in their living conditions.

The Peace Movement did not pretend to believe that its action alone had been decisive.

Mr. Donini pointed out that the developments in the Italian domestic situation were also the result of the relaxation of international tension; and dealing with the increasing number of exchanges and meetings, he stressed the success of the Conference of Mayors at Florence, which had been sponsored by the Roman Catholic Mayor of that city, following an official proposal from the Italian Peace Movement. The Peace Pact concluded between the mayors of the capital cities could become a weapon for the defence of peace. Another example of the same kind was given by the Brussels Meeting of the European Society for Culture.

Mr. Donini went on to say that it would be an error, in view of present possibilities, to think that the movement had finished its work. On the contrary, it had to carry on with its task of uniting the most diverse groups in order to prevent any return to war, whether "cold or hot." It was not a question of giving advice to the Ministers who were going to meet, but of reaffirming the movement's solutions and principles.

In this connection, the speaker stressed the importance of the abandonment of the policy of blocs and foreign military bases. The possibilities which could thus be opened were illustrated by the conclusion of the Austrian State Treaty which precisely implied complete rejection of a policy of foreign military bases in that country. Incidentally, he added, the agreement between the Austrian Christian Democrat Government and the Moscow Government had had a considerable effect in Italy and even in the Vatican.

If the policy of rejecting military blocs and foreign military bases were pursued it would, for example, be possible for Germany to be speedily reunited.

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* The full text of Professor Bernal's memorandum will be found on Page 2.

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Mr. Donini defined neutrality as opposition to anything which could hinder relations between states and as the right of every state to be sovereign and independent.

The Bureau, he said, had to look for new methods of united work, as that was indispensable in order to go on from the present stage where the peoples were rejoicing over the successes won, although difficulties remained; otherwise, in the absence of vigilant activity, success could be turned into failure. The movement had essentially to advocate concerted action of the peace forces and to reaffirm its aim to provide leadership for these forces in order to achieve real peaceful co-existence and the use of all material and human resources for the consolidation of peace between all countries.

For **Mr. Laurent Casanova** (France) the Bureau's task was to define a uniform line of work for the World Peace Movement and to work out the content and forms of this work. It was correct to propose that National Committees concern themselves with the preparations and results of the Geneva Conference to enable public opinion to play its part.

In France some wished to put the North African question in the forefront but it was considered that, while not neglecting the North African questions, the main effort should be concentrated round the Geneva Conference.

Some other countries might be faced with similar questions, this being true of Latin America, India and Japan.

These countries could not neglect Geneva because, although the Ministers' agenda was limited and only a few countries were represented, the questions to be discussed were of world importance.

Examining the themes and forms of action to be undertaken in connection with the Foreign Ministers' meeting, the speaker explained why it did not seem possible in France to make the Vienna Appeal either the sole or the principal theme of the present campaign. The signature campaign method did not seem appropriate to the new situation. It was a question of integrating the demand for the banning of atomic weapons in a much greater effort dealing with several points at once.

Among these points were disarmament and furtherance of the relaxation of international tension: They should be presented in such a way that the line of action proposed would still be valid after the Geneva Conference.

To carry on the movement's activities successfully, the results of the first Geneva Conference had to be correctly estimated. It was not enough to say, though it was true, that Geneva was an historic date. It had to be realised that since mid-August retrograde steps had been taken regarding the question of disarmament and those of European security and the German problem.

The political forces which, for various reasons, had inspired the Cold War, still existed and therefore, in spite of the changes registered at Geneva, there was no assurance against a return to the Cold War. On the other hand decisive changes had come about in public opinion, which had understood that peaceful agreement was possible between East and West. Since Geneva the policy of tension had thus been deprived of its only support in the eyes of public opinion. In fact, from the moment the war danger recedes, the policy of war preparation is then seen only as a burden imposed on the peoples and a source of poverty, and consequently is rejected by the masses of the people.

These considerations must prompt us to work energetically, rapidly, boldly and confidently, approaching even those who still have some suspicions of the political motives of our work for peace.

In conclusion Mr. Casanova made some personal observations concerning the delay in calling the Bureau meeting; he thought that the working of the World Peace Movement's leading bodies during the recent period had been defective and that the Secretariat's methods of work should be re-examined.

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Before giving the floor to Professor Kosambi (India), the Chairman, Mr. d'Astier de la Vigerie, asked the Bureau to make nominations for two commissions — one on organisation and the other to draft a final text — the nominations to be submitted later.

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Professor Kosambi regretted that the Asian countries were under-represented at the Bureau meeting and that the speakers so far had not mentioned any Asian questions.

He outlined recent events which had directly concerned India and which once again showed the desire of the Indian government and people for peace. Among these events had been Pandit Nehru's visit to the Soviet Union, of which a very successful film had been made, and the part played by the Indian Chairman of the Geneva Scientific Conference. The position of Pandit Nehru and the Five Principles, he said, had not only contributed to the cause of peace but had helped the World Movement itself.

Professor Kosambi informed the Bureau of developments towards a peaceful settlement of India-Pakistan relations. In this connection he showed that this was the result of the efforts made by the governments and the peoples of the two countries to reach an understanding, and went on to say that such a method was to be recommended for the solution of problems such as the German question where the governments of the two parts of the country, with or without outside help, could make direct contacts leading to reunification.

As for the various Geneva Conferences, the opinion of Professor Kosambi, and many of his Indian friends, was that the most fruitful had been that which re-established peace in Viet Nam. The reason for this he found in the presence of the People's Republic of China at that conference; the world's most populous nation could not be left out of the discussion of world affairs. The dangers which remain in Asia — the Taiwan question and the non-application of the agreements on Viet Nam — could be solved by another conference with the People's Republic of China taking part. The speaker recommended the Bureau to give considerable attention to this question and to Asian solidarity as a means to peace not only in Asia but for the whole world.

Turning to the question of atomic weapons, he drew attention to the genetic dangers of atomic explosions stating that he had learned from British experts that the genetic effects could emerge after five, ten or 25 generations.

In the third part of his speech he dealt with what he called the American question. Describing the development of the peace forces in the United States, he said that recent events had shown without any possible doubt that public opinion had led the American statesmen to negotiate. Professor Kosambi analysed the economic causes of this development of peace opinion in the United States, the threatening crisis in particular, and proposed that the World Council should, in good time before the American elections, make these points in an appeal addressed to the American people.

The fact was, he said, that while the danger of immediate war had receded as a result of recent international conferences, those who had a vested interest in war were not disarming but were preparing for a conflict in the more distant future. Professor Kosambi therefore proposed that the Bureau should take the necessary measures to reveal this danger to world opinion.

Mr. Emmanuel d'Astier de la Vigerie then spoke in his personal capacity. He thought that one of the Peace Movement's tasks was to reveal the political perspectives, bearing in mind the wishes and desires of public opinion.

To that end they should refer to the peace movement's constant themes, which are independent of the positions of governments and diplomats which can, for realist reasons, move away provisionally.

The speaker made three main points. Considering the disarmament problem, he stated that control should be not control of armaments but control of disarmament. Mentioning the recent commercial agreements between Czechoslovakia and Egypt and the uneasiness of a section of Western opinion on

this matter, he thought that the problem of international arms deals should be linked with that of disarmament.

Like Mr. Casanova, Mr. d'Astier did not think that the Vienna Appeal could continue to be the central theme of the movement's activity. While the situation had changed considerably since January, that did not mean that the threat of nuclear weapons had been removed. The problem of banning them had not been solved but it was now linked with the whole question of disarmament. Thus the basic demand of the Vienna Appeal remained valid.

Turning to the German problem, Mr. d'Astier thought that the Movement should reaffirm its fundamental theses:

— demilitarisation;
— non-inclusion of Germany in military blocs;
— reunification.

Of course these aims could not be attained overnight and support should be given to any kind of compromise tending in the direction of the Movement's proposed solution. The proposals made by Sir Anthony Eden at Geneva represented an effort at compromise. As for the German internal situation, at the present time, Mr. d'Astier asked if it were possible, towards this end, to envisage some kind of *bund* between the two parts of Germany.

The resumption of French broadcasts violently attacking the Eastern countries was contrary to the relaxation of tension. To enable the French Movement to take effective action against such things, Mr. d'Astier asked that for their part the Eastern countries should see to it that their broadcasts avoided any such attacks.

Mr. Ilya Ehrenburg (U.S.S.R.) considered that the Geneva spirit could not be overestimated, and that if tribute was to be paid to the Heads of Government, it was also legitimate for the Peace Movement to be proud of the work achieved.

The ideas which the Movement had put forward had spread far beyond the circles which they had directly reached. He went on to deal with the work of the Soviet Peace Committee, saying that the welcome given to foreign tourists by the people of Moscow was the result of this work.

The great victory of Geneva had been to dispel fear but nonetheless, remarked Mr. Ehrenburg, the Peace Movement's "holidays" had gone on too long. There was no call to be pessimistic but it had to be noted that some newspapers and broadcasting stations had restarted the cold war, which could not be buried on one side only. Mr. Ehrenburg showed that the Soviet Union had contributed to the *détente* since Geneva with the measures taken to release men from the armed forces and to return the Porkkala naval base to Finland. While it would of course be difficult to go back on the armistice in the Cold War, there were historical examples of a war having restarted after an armistice.

The negotiations which are due to open may be long and difficult but they can succeed if, given goodwill, they start with the simplest questions where they are nearest agreement.

Mr. Ehrenburg pointed out that at the present time agreement was certain on the disarmament question unless difficulties were invented. Prime Minister Bulganin's recent letter to President Eisenhower had shown how inspection proposals could be included in a general disarmament plan. Like Mr. d'Astier, the speaker considered that there was no question of controlling armaments, what was wanted being control of disarmament. As for the question raised by Mr. d'Astier on trade in arms the problem would no longer arise when universal disarmament was achieved. Mr. Ehrenburg expressed his surprise at Western reactions to the recent Czech-Egyptian agreement, pointing out that Czech commercial sales to a country could not threaten security any more than similar sales by the Western countries.

On the question of East-West contacts, agreement could ›ily be reached, bearing in mind the great progress made in this sphere since Geneva. Trade and cultural exchanges could greatly contribute to psychological disarmament.

As for the solution of the German problem, the speaker wanted to see a reunified Germany free from commitments to any military coalition and constituting no danger either to its neighbours or to the world as a whole. In this matter, he said, we could neither follow the tortuous path of the diplomats nor limit ourselves to reiterating principles without seeing things as they were. To demand the abandonment of the policy of blocs would, in the immediate future, be to make negotiation more difficult and revive the cold war. In the same way to demand the reunification of Germany and its non-integration in any military coalition would be, for the immediate future, to make negotiation more difficult: those who had rearmed Germany as part of the Atlantic bloc would not accept this demand. It was therefore necessary to find solutions acceptable to all. In this connection the Eden plan had aroused a great deal of interest at Geneva but it had recently been announced that it had been withdrawn in favour of a common plan for the three Western powers. This was a regrettable step, but even on this question an area of understanding could be found especially by seeking means of ensuring European security and bringing the two German states together. Any proposal on these lines was a step forward.

In any case, continued Mr. Ehrenburg, the success of the Ministers' Conference depended on public opinion which must demand that the four Ministers do not come back from Geneva empty-handed.

We talked about the "Four Great Powers," said Mr. Ehrenburg, but everything is relative. The Indian people and Government had greatly contributed to the success of the Geneva spirit, which to some extent is the New Delhi spirit. The Chinese people were also concerned in the success of Geneva. The disarmament question could not be settled without such a great power as China and the development of the Geneva spirit meant the failure of the effort to isolate China from the community of nations.

In the forthcoming months the negotiations would have world attention. In addressing that opinion the Bureau should not simply reiterate the Movement's great principles but rather show in its statement that the Movement had finished its "holidays." A short and energetic appeal, wounding no one's susceptibilities, must invite the peoples to work for the victory of the Geneva spirit. It was not for us to dictate to the diplomats what they had to do but to ask the peoples for their support in the cause of negotiation and peace.

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The Bureau then elected a commission on organisation and a drafting commission.

Mr. Emilio Sereni (Italy) took the floor, saying that all the speakers had shown the historic importance of the two Geneva Conferences and the part the Peace Movement had played in the positive conclusions that had emerged. He pointed out the great contribution which the President of the World Council had made through his personal prestige and sacrifices to these successes.

Mr. Sereni proposed that the Bureau find a way to express its gratitude to Professor Joliot-Curie for his contribution to the cause of peace and his work for the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy.

The suggestion was adopted.

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The Bureau then adopted a proposal by **Mr. Alfredo Varela** (Argentine) asking for inclusion on the Bureau's agenda of the question of the cultural anniversaries to be celebrated in 1956.

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2nd Session

PROFESSOR D.D. Kosambi took the Chair for the second session and immediately gave the floor to **Mrs. Maria Rosa Oliver** (Argentine).

In spite of what several speakers had said of various countries, Mrs. Oliver thought that the optimism which had followed Geneva had not slowed down the activity of the Argentine Peace Movement where, on the contrary, it had developed in spite of the difficult domestic conditions.

The Movement's activity had been based both on the general topics common to all countries and on the defence of the Argentine oil resources which certain interests envisaged handing over to American companies. This question was one of those that most contributed to the internal changes on the country; however those who were pushing for the oil industry to be handed over to a foreign country had not given up, but were going to the extent of calling for a bilateral military alliance with the United States; to this end they were banking on a return to the Cold War.

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In these conditions the Movement's present task was to give confidence to the masses and to convince Argentine statesmen that a peace policy is possible.

A positive development for the Argentine had been the trade agreements with Eastern countries; by continuing along these lines, a country could gain its economic independence without which political sovereignty remains an empty expression.

The countries of Latin America, Mrs. Oliver continued, ought to aim at carrying out a policy similar to that of India. A first demonstration should be for them to support the restitution to China of her place in the United Nations; and the Argentine movement was explaining to the people the need to bring government members to this point of view.

The ten principles of Bandung, noted Mrs. Oliver, were all the more acceptable to the Latin American people because they were analogous to those proclaimed by Bolivar. The policy of "active neutrality" would thus be easier to explain to them.

This was the intention of the Argentine Movement at the same time as undertaking a campaign to influence the Foreign Ministers' Geneva discussions favourably.

Dr. J. G. Endicott, D.D. (Canada) shared Mr. Ehrenburg's view that one could not overestimate the results of the Geneva Conference. The Movement should make a correct appreciation of the changes which had come about and see what bearing they had on its methods of work.

That did not mean, Dr. Endicott continued, that we should hide the dangers which still existed, and he illustrated these, as they appeared in North America, with the aid of press cuttings.

MacCarthyism is still much in evidence, whatever may have happened to MacCarthy.

Among certain sections of the population and the peace forces there is a certain complacency and lack of appreciation of the urgency of the dangers.

Unrestrained propaganda is carried on for a super-army capable of imposing the will of the United States on the world. The press and radio are continuing their bellicose campaigns.

But, if we had to be soberly realistic in our appreciations, the Movement could be optimistic about the results obtained.

The action of the Canadian representative at the U. N. Disarmament Commission Sub-committee had had considerable repercussions in the Canadian semi-official press which had regretted certain obstructive attitudes adopted by the United States at the Sub-committee.

At the present time there were good possibilities for developing peace activity in the United States and Canada, irrespective of the outcome of the forthcoming conference, if the Movement based its activity on the directive given to the Foreign Ministers by the Heads of Government — this directive being good and conducive to peace. It was an urgent necessity for the Bureau to set on foot every means for mobilising the masses during the Geneva Conference.

Pointing out some omissions in the text of the Helsinki Appeal, the speaker insisted that the proposals which the Bureau was to make should have an absolutely universal character and allow National Committees to find the appropriate forms in each country to realise the co-operation of the peace forces for the aims thus defined.

Mentioning the economic situation in Canada, Dr. Endicott insisted on the need to avoid, in the Movement's activity, economic theories of a controversial nature, and to appeal to the reason and feelings of people by showing particularly the reciprocal advantages of exchanges and trade for peace and the welfare of mankind.

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The Chairman, Professor Kosambi, thanked Dr. Endicott for his speech and indicated his agreement with Dr. Endicott's observations on the universal character which the World Movement's published statements should have. He expressed his confidence in the success of the struggle for peace in the United States.

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Mr. Emilio Sereni (Italy) shared with other speakers the view that the Movement had been "on holiday" during the summer. He pointed out the Bureau's responsibility in this connection saying that such a situation should be avoided in future.

It would, however, be incorrect to generalise from a few particular instances since other National Movements, such as Japan and Finland, had in fact accomplished a great deal during the summer.

Taking the example of the Finnish Movement which had continued the signature campaign for the Vienna Appeal during the summer, Mr. Sereni observed that there, as during the last months of the Italian campaign, the Vienna Appeal had met with less response since Geneva.

This experience led to consideration not only of the changes which have taken place in the international situation but also the tasks to be defined on the basis of these facts.

Mr. Casanova, he added, had made a correct analysis of the international situation. Following Geneva public opinion had accepted the idea that international problems could be settled by negotiation and not war. While this process was not irreversible and while some forces would oppose the idea, it was none the less true that public opinion would continue for several months to retain its confidence in the effectiveness of its action.

It was a fact that public opinion which had until then considered the danger of atomic war to be immediate, was at present no longer alarmed by such a danger and would not believe it during the coming period.

Mr. Sereni explained that it was not a matter of deciding whether public opinion was right or wrong in thinking thus; the point was that this fact dictated certain conditions for the Movement's activity. At the present time public opinion could no longer be mobilised by centring activity around the principal theme of the struggle against atomic war. On this subject the people could no longer be roused to the same extent, and it was the Movement's fundamental task to appeal to the peace feelings and emotions of the masses of ordinary people.

What was the focal point for the mass of the people in the different countries? They no longer believed that the atom bomb would be dropped without warning. But they understood that in spite of the success of Geneva — which brought an

end to the Cold War but not peace — the two blocs were still in existence. It was for this reason that Mr. Sereni had some objections to an idea put forward by Mr. Ehrenburg concerning military blocs. Though he thought, as did Mr. Ehrenburg, that it would be disastrous to subordinate the solution of the concrete problems facing the Four Foreign Ministers to the dissolution of the two blocs, nevertheless he thought that the Peace Movement's principal task, if it wished to mobilise public opinion, must be to lead public opinion in the struggle against the system of military blocs.

The Peace Movement had always worked against military blocs but the coming period would make this aim that of all the National Movements throughout the world. This task would be achieved in practice in various ways in various countries but it was a task that concerned them all.

Another problem, linked with the foregoing, was that of foreign military bases. The existence of these military bases had been justified to millions of people because they feared the outbreak of a conflict. But this fear had disappeared, and the existence of these bases was no longer understandable. Moreover these bases were a barrier in respect of their national independence which hampered the transition from the cold war period to a period of peaceful co-existence between the nations.

In conclusion Mr. Sereni said that the changes which had taken place in the objective conditions for the Movement's activity must also be seen from another point of view. It was because the Peace Movement had always concentrated all its forces on a single activity, because it had always been undivided, that it had been able to win great successes.

The Movement's world character had been dictated to it by the facts themselves, the Korean War, for example. But the forthcoming period might not furnish such situations and the Movement's unity and world character should not be foresaken for spontenaity but should be guaranteed by organisational measures.

Mr. Ernst Fischer (Austria) expressed his satisfaction that the Bureau was meeting in Vienna.

Dealing with the Austrian situation, he said there were two trends in political circles: those in favour of understanding between the nations and those who wished to hamper understanding. But the Austrian people realised that the settlement of the Austrian problem was the fruit of a policy of understanding and negotiation. At the same time it must not be overlooked that this independence had to be preserved by a ceaseless struggle.

The Austrian people now understood the advantages of the policy of agreement which had saved the country from the insecurity and danger of division to which the policy of the Cold War and military blocs had led, through the existence of military bases in the Tyrol in particular.

Mr. Fischer mentioned that on October 26 the Austrian Parliament would ratify the declaration of permanent neutrality by which Austria undertook to take no part in any military bloc and to allow no foreign military base on its soil. This was a step forward which could be an example to other countries.

Some politicans considered neutrality an epidemic and feared it would spread to other European countries; others considered it an out-of-date idea, applicable to Austria as an exception. The Austrian people had another opinion; they though that the creation of neutral states had an important influence on world peace and they therefore wanted the Geneva Conference to recognise Austrian neutrality and undertake to guarantee it.

It was certain that the enemies of the *détente* were concentrating their strength for new attacks for this reason the Austrian government's declaration of permanent neutrality should be considered as a positive and important event, but one which would demand, a permanent struggle to make it a reality. The Austrian people, he concluded, were determined to carry on such a struggle.

Mr. José da Frota Moreira (Brazil) then took the floor to say that in his country, as elsewhere the *détente* which Geneva had produced had created an atmosphere of triumph among the peace forces. However, he continued, no change had taken place in the warlike policy of his government. The meeting of American countries held in Washington on the eve of the the Geneva Conference had confirmed the conclusion of the Caracas Conference justifying United States intervention in the internal affairs of the Latin American countries. It was thus to be inferred that the Latin American countries would be left out of whatever decisions might be taken at Geneva. Since then new facts had shown that some countries had retreated from their position at Geneva. The speaker mentioned the agreement concluded between Brazil and the United States on the sale of Brazilian uranium for American military purposes; the increase in the Brazilian military budget (a jump of 70% for the forthcoming financial year); the state of emergency in Chile; the *coup d'état* in the Argentine; the permanent threat of a *coup d'état* in Brazil, etc.

The relaxation of international tension was however in evidence in Brazil where new political circles were rallying in support of the idea of peaceful co-existence; an appreciable number of commercial and industrial bodies and big farmers had, since Geneva, joined in the campaign for the re-establishment of relations with the Eastern countries and China. This campaign, which the Brazilian Movement had been carrying on for two years, was and would continue to be one of the most important aspects of its activity; it was a concern of all the Latin American countries. The speaker therefore wanted the Bureau's statement to make special mention of East-West contacts which would also be on the agenda of the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Concerning disarmament, he stressed that acceptance of the Soviet plan would enable Brazil's armed forces to be reduced by 100,000 men, which would be very beneficial for the economic situation.

Turning to the Vienna Appeal campaign, Mr. da Frota Moreira reported that the Brazilian Movement was continuing it as part of a special campaign fortnight for the success of the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

In conclusion he analysed the favourable conditions which existed in his country at the present time for strengthening the Movement. The election programmes of two of the Presidential candidates — and one of them had won — had been presented, as far as the question of peace was concerned, in the very same terms as those of the Movement. Political circles had favourably received statements along the same lines by such figures as Senator Fontes and Mr. Aranha, former Chairman of the U.N. General Assembly.

The considerable strengthening of the peace forces gave the Brazilian Movement the task of co-ordinating their activity with the aim of obtaining a foreign policy in harmony with the Geneva spirit.

Mr. Erwin Eckert (German Federal Republic) was convinced that the directive given to their Ministers by the Heads of Government to solve the problems of European security and Germany had helped to eliminate fear.

While the Movement could not replace the diplomats, it did have the task of carrying out a people's diplomacy which could prevent any going back on the results obtained at Geneva.

The speaker reviewed the Western positions on the German problem, which sought to bring a reunified Germany into the Atlantic coalition.

Illustrating his observations with press-cuttings and quotations from M.P.s' speeches, Mr. Eckert showed that there is

a growing realisation in the most varied parties and circles that German reunification cannot be realised as long as the London and Paris Agreements are implemented and as long as the demand is made to bring a united Germany into NATO.

This is what many sections of German opinion expect from the forthcoming Geneva Conference:

— an agreement between the NATO countries and the Warsaw Treaty countries;

— a statement renouncing the use of force and increases in armaments, and pledging a willingness to negotiate;

— a formal statement of the intention to dissolve the two blocs as soon as a collective security system could be brought into operation;

— the creation by the Foreign Ministers' Conference of a commission to find the ways and means of establishing collective security in Europe, the commission to include representatives of countries belonging neither to NATO or the Warsaw Treaty, such as the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic;

— the Geneva discussions on the German problem to take place in the presence of representatives of both parts of Germany.

The speaker went on to note as a positive factor the struggle carried on in the German Federal Republic against conscription, to which the decision of the German Democratic Republic not to pass similar laws in the present circumstances contributes.

These facts showed the present possibilities in Germany and must lead the World Council to link the question of European security more strongly with the German problem. As for disarmament, official statements by politicians showed that a dangerous situation had arisen since Geneva. The fundamental demand of the Vienna Appeal, the banning of thermonuclear weapons, could take on great importance in the future.

Concluding, Mr. Eckert read the proposals of the German Peace Council. Explaining its position on the German problem, the Council called for closer co-operation of the peace forces of neighbouring countries with those of Germany; the help of the World Council of Peace in making the situation in the two Germanies better known throughout the world; and a meeting for the discussion of these problems with the representatives of the European countries.

3rd Session

DR. James G. Endicott, D.D., took the chair and immediately gave the floor to **Mr. William Morrow** (Australia).

Man is good at heart, Mr. Morrow said, but material interests can sometimes transform his character. He then gave a brief account of the influence of industrial development on human life and the inferior position of colonial countries. At the present time certain countries have a surplus of goods and seek to establish an economic balance. This results in an arms drive which lowers the people's standard of living and aggravates the danger of a conflict.

The situation is serious and we must be bolder in our attitude. Ordinary people, who are in the majority, do not want war. Only a minority who profit from it demand war.

The World Council's decision to launch the Vienna Appeal was one of the best decisions it had ever taken.

Some people think that the Appeal is out of date, but in fact it is still alive and makes it possible to alert the peoples to the danger that threatens them. In spite of the difficulties that the Australian Peace Movement has had to overcome — bans on the Movement, propaganda in the press, on the radio and even from the pulpit — the campaign was a success.

Mr. Morrow explained that the campaign was organised on an electoral basis, with deputations to the M.P.s to ask them to demand the banning of atomic weapons in Parliament. This activity had borne fruit because puplic opinion was very powerful when well informed. The Australian Labour Party had stated that troops should not be sent to Malaya and that the People's Republic of China should have its seat in the United Nations.

These results had been obtained through indoor meetings, meetings at factory gates and elsewhere — a slow process but one which gave good results.

Each National Peace Movement must decide for itself whether it is appropriate to continue the campaign or not. Mr. Morrow personally thought that the campaign should be continued to alert the people, who are the strongest force when they know the gravity of the situation.

Mr. Yoshitaro Hirano (Japan) proposed to add a few remarks on the situation in the Far East, particularly in Japan where the struggle against atomic war is helping the campaign against military bases and vice versa.

Quoting the examples of Taiwan, Korea and Viet Nam, the speaker stated that tension in the Far East will not diminish if the current problems are not settled.

The contradiction between the Geneva spirit and the strengthening of military bases in the Pacific, and the rearming of Japan, are also very serious obstacles to the settlement of Asian problems.

The Foreign Ministers' Conference could examine the withdrawal of troops occupying military bases in all foreign countries and the withdrawal of the United States Seventh Fleet from the Taiwan Straits. Public opinion must act to obtain a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan problem.

Mr. Hirano ended with two proposals.

1) Bearing in mind the profound impression created by the Hiroshima Conference, he suggested that victims of A and H bombs should go on lecture tours accompanied by scientists and doctors, and that an appeal should be made for international co-operation for relief for the victims. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were willing to co-operate in this.

2) Apropos of Okinawa, he drew the attention of the Bureau of the World Council of Peace to the problem of military bases forced upon the inhabitants against their will, and also to that of the settlement of the title to this territory according to the will of its inhabitants.

Mr. Hirano concluded by asking that the World Council of Peace support the decisions of the Asian Conference in New Delhi and and of the Asian Lawyers' Conference in Calcutta that an inspection team be sent to Okinawa.

* * *

In thanking Mr. Hirano, the Chairman gave the Bureau some of the impressions left on him by his recent visit to Japan where, he said, "you cannot drive for three hours in a car without seeing a foreign military base."

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The next speaker was **Mrs. Eugenie Cotton** (France) who spoke on behalf of the Union of French Women and the Women's International Democratic Federation of which she is president. She recalled that at the Congress of Mothers, which came shortly after the World Assembly for Peace, more than 1,000 women of widely varying opinions united for a common aim: the defence of the life which mothers give and which is squandered in wars. In the name of mother love, that great force for peace, the Congress had sent a message to the Four Heads of Government meeting in Geneva and an address to the United Nations asking them to see to it that future generations are preserved from war.

The mothers of the entire world are rejoicing over the *détente* but the mothers of France and North Africa are

again trembling with fear for their children. So it is the duty of French mothers to help keep the Geneva spirit alive by once again calling on the Big Four to lessen tension further. This would have great repercussion in North Africa. But it is also the duty of French mothers to unite now in defence of their children who are being sent to fight the peoples of Algeria and Morocco. Mrs. Cotton quoted a number of examples of action to this end by French women and also gave examples showing that young French soldiers of all viewpoints are joining their voice to that of the mothers.

These facts reflect the great anxiety of a large part of the French people, and the National Assembly vote on Marocco demonstrated the desire for negotiation.

It was regrettable that the Bureau meeting came a little late after Geneva. However, the National Peace Movements in a number of countries had alerted public opinion, so that the Appeal the Bureau would issue would meet with immediate response. The Appeal should stress the need to increase the exchange of delegations of all kinds between all countries in order to foster mutual understanding. Mrs. Cotton expressed her agreement with Mr. Sereni when he said that the Appeal should mobilise the masses of the people and that it should be inspired by the Movement's principles of universality and broad humanity.

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In thanking Mrs. Cotton for her contribution, Dr. Endicott expressed his gratitude to her for her tireless activity on behalf of mothers, and the participants in the Bureau session rose and applauded her.

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Mr. Mustapha Amin (Syria) stated that the peoples of the Middle East welcomed the results of the Conference of the Four Heads of Government as a great step towards the easing of tension and an end to military blocs. However, their vigilance should not weaken, for, since then, there had been renewed pressure to get other countries to enter the Turkey-Iraq Pact, and NATO forces were taking action against the national liberation movements in North Africa.

As to the recent agreement on the sale of arms between Czechoslovakia and Egypt, Egypt had not contravened international law and had exercised her right as a sovereign state. In the past, pressure had been exerted on that country to get it to accept conditions harmful to its sovereignty. The recent trade exchanges with the countries of the East were felt by the Middle East to be a break in the chain binding the peoples of this region.

Moreover, new relations have just been established in the cultural sphere between Syria, Egypt and the countries of Eastern Europe: diplomatic relations have now been normalised, a Syrian parliamentary delegation had gone to Moscow and Bulgarian and Soviet ensembles are at present in Syria. These results must be put down to a large extent to the activity of the Peace Movement.

Mr. Amin stressed the good results obtained in Syria by the campaign for the Vienna Appeal. They were much better than those of previous campaigns and the widest political circles had been interested.

The situation in the Middle East is ser ous, as is shown by the recent announcement that Iran had joined the Baghdad military pact, and it should be mentioned in the documents that come out of the Bureau. Any progress made at Geneva will have a good effect on the struggle of the peoples of the Middle East against military blocs. That is why, in Syria and the Lebanon, the Peace Movement is mobilising the people to send a flood of messages to the four Foreign Ministers.

Closing Session

FOR the closing session the Chair was taken by Mrs. Eugenie Cotton, Vice-President of the World Council of Peace.

Mr. Alfredo Varela (Argentine) submitted proposals to the Bureau for the cultural anniversaries to be celebrated during 1956, proposals based on suggestions made by National Committees and individuals in the Movement.

After discussion the list of anniversaries recommended to National Committees for celebration was adopted with six abstentions. (The full list of recommended anniversaries is given on page 14 of this issue — Ed.)

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The floor was then given to **Mr. Riccardo Lombardi** of Italy to give the Organisation Commission's report.

This Commission had been charged by the Bureau to examine the state of the campaign against the preparation of atomic war and its relation to the new tasks arising from the international situation.

The fifteen-member commission made a thorough study of the results of the campaign in the different countries and its general achievements. Following a lengthy exchange of views, it charged its Chairman, Mr. Lombardi, to submit its conclusions and proposals to the Bureau.

"After noting the important results the campaign had obtained in many countries, both in the numbers of signatures collected and in the political influence brought to bear, the Commission recognised the continuing need to carry on intensive activity against atomic war, though the methodes used need not necessarily be those recommended by the Bureau last January.

"The Commission registered the fact that during the campaign the Peace Movement had made many contacts with political forces which had hitherto rejected any co-operation with it. It had set going a movement of public opinion in favour of atomic disarmament which is influencing circles far outside the Movement. Resolutions such as those of the British Trades Union Congress and of the Council of Churches of the Western United States, and steps such as the scientists' statement presented by Bertrand Russell, the 18 Nobel Prizewinners' Appeal, the World Conference in Hiroshima, the World Conference of Scientists in London, the Meeting of Mayors in Florence, the success of the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki, and, to a certain extent, the results of the Conference of Heads of Government, and of the World Conference for the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy in Geneva — can all be included among the political repercussions of the campaign.

"In view of these results, and bearing in mind the continuing danger of atomic war, the Commission asks all National Committees of the Peace Movement to carry on and extend the campaign for the abolition of atomic weapons, in the forms that they themselves decide upon, taking into account the new situation created by the development of the international situation and the objectives set out by the Bureau at its meeting."

These proposals were adopted by the Bureau.

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On behalf of the Drafting Commission, **Mr. d'Astier de la Vigerie** submitted the Appeal to Public Opinion.

Mr. Abdoullaye Diallo (Central Africa), **Mr. Ilya Ehrenburg** (U.S.S.R.), **Dr. J. G. Endicott** (Canada), **Mr. Jorge Zalamea** (Colombia), **Mr. Erwin Eckert** (German Federal Republic), **Mr. Laurent Casanova** (France) and **Mr. d'Astier de la Vigerie** (France) suggested various amendments; and with some modifications the Appeal was unanimously adopted.

* * *

Following the proposal made by Mr. Sereni at the end of the first session, a letter to Professor Joliot-Curie was read by the Chairman expressing the Bureau's gratitude for his contribution to the cause of peace and his work, for the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy. The message will be taken to the President by a deputation of Bureau members.

The Bureau concluded its work as Mrs. Cotton thanked those present for their help in working out the decisions taken and appealed for them to be implemented in all countries. The session was then closed.

5,000 Lobby Parliament

Over 5,000 citizens from all over Great Britain took part on October 25 in the National Deputations Day organised by the British Peace Committee. Mention of the deputations was made in all London newspapers and they were seen on television After the lobbying of M.P.s nearly 5,000 people took part in a march and meeting in Central London. Details of this expression of British public opinion will be given in our next issue. In this article our London correspondent describes the preparations for Deputations Day.

More than 50 coaches were booked to bring people from all parts of Britain to lobby the M.P.s when Parliament reassembled after the summer recess on October 25.

In addition many groups had arranged to travel from the provinces by train. Wales aimed to fill an entire special train; Birmingham had booked 100 train seats, Manchester — 100, Leeds — 30, and so on.

Preparations went forward under the slogan: "The Geneva Spirit — Keep It Alive!"

An impressive photographic poster giving a picture of the Big Four at Geneva and bearing this slogan was prepared (see picture in the centre of this page). This poster is being displayed at meetings, and has been reproduced in the press.

As well, 336,000 leaflets have been distributed, 10,000 letters sent to organisations, and 1000 posters (125 sets of 8) for poster parades issued (see picture at the top of this page) — all calling for support for Deputations Day.

These national preparations were backed up by hard work in the localities. For instance, the Edinburgh Peace Council wrote to all the heads of local churches and to all trade union branches in the district. An open air meeting publicising Deputations Day was held every Sunday morning, and a final big indoor meeting was held on October 23.

Petitions to be taken by deputations to M.P.s have been circulating in parts of Lancashire and Chesire, notably in Burnley, Bootle, and the Moss Side, Cheetham, Swinton, Didsbury and Wythenshawe districts of Manchester. In two streets in Burnley, 140 signatures were collected with only one refusal. In Bootle, 60 signatures were collected in an hour.

In Leeds, invitation letters, with a petition to go to London with the deputation, were sent to 165 organisations. 274 signatures were collected in 90 minutes. A Yorkshire delegation of more than 100 has been elected — including 38 from Sheffield.

In Wales, a number of pits have elected delegates and churches and pacifist organisations have given their support.

In Bristol, four delegates have been elected from branches of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, four from branches of the Electrical Trades Union and four from the Clerical and Administrative Workers Union. Shop stewards at the Smith's clock factory near Cheltenham have also elected four delegates. Other West Country deputations include two woodworkers from Taunton, three railwaymen from Westbury (Wiltshire), and a group from Swinton.

In Derbyshire, which was not represented at the Lobby Day on January 25 last, a petition has been circulated calling on local M.P.s to "bring maximum pressure to bear on the Foreign Minister so that the spirit of Geneva is kept alive during the meeting of the Foreign Ministers." In one hour two people collected 58 signatures and 24 shillings towards sending a deputation to present the petition in Parliament.

Glasgow delegates include Mr. Donald McGregor, a member of the executive of the Glasgow Trades Council, elected by the Govan branch of the Scottish Painters' Society, and Mr. J.W. Brian, a member of the Labour Party, elected to represent the 900 railwaymen of the Polmadie depot. Glenroth (Fife) delegates include Councillor Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Adams, representing co-operators, and a miner from Balgonie Pit. Delegates from Ayrshire include Mr. Robert McInnes, Labour Councillor for Beith, and a representative of the miners of Barony Pit.

Support was widespread in London and the Home Counties. Shop stewards representing 10,000 workers at the Plessey radio factory in Essex voted to support the Lobby. Shop stewards of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions in the Port of London booked a coach to go through the docks on Deputations Day, picking up supporters at various points.

The North-West London District of the Amalgamated Union of Building Workers accepted an invitation the the North-East District of its union to send a joint deputation.

The quarterly meeting of shop stewards of the Southall (Middlesex) District of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and two Acton branches of the union called on members to support the Lobby.

Other trade unions to support included the Park Royal Committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, Croydon branches of the Plasterers', foundryworkers', and electricians' unions, two Mitcham branches of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, and a Mitcham branch of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers.

BRITISH LABOUR PARTY CALLS FOR H-BOMB BAN

The Annual Conference of the British Labour Party, held recently in Margate, unanimously passed the following resolution moved by the Amalgamated Engineering Union:

"This Annual Conference calls upon the Government to use its great influence to bring about an early meeting of the five Heads of the Great Powers, Britain, France, the United States, the Soviet Union and China, with a view to the peaceful settlement of difficulties, and immediate reduction of armaments and the banning of hydrogen and atomic weapons."

A MESSAGE TO THE MINISTERS

"Begin the process whereby good words are turned into good deeds", said a message to the Foreign Ministers sent by Bertrand Russell, Lord Boyd Orr, Professor C.F. Powell, F.R.S., and Sir Richard Coppock, president of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, and endorsed by more than 1,000 people at a special meeting in the Central Hall, London, on October 21. The message will be delivered to the Foreign Ministers in Geneva.

"The division of the world into two hostile camps, it said, "is not the in the interests of either side. A further relaxation of tension is possible if the Foreign Ministers approach their arduous task in the right frame of mind."

PUBLIC OPINION SPEAKS TO

"So we may all live and let live"

100 Americans write to President Eisenhower

PRESIDENT Eisenhower was urged by more than 100 prominent Americans on Sunday, Oct. 16 to see that the "spirit of Geneva" prevails at the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

"We do not advocate giving up realistic positions without a balance of commitments on both sides," the letter said. "But we would profit from a realistic approach, free of the assumption that the Soviet leaders are always wrong and we are always right. Let us reaffirm the give and take spirit of Geneva so that we may all live and let live."

Expressing concern "over press reports emanating from spokesmen" of the Eisenhower administration "which seek to put a brake on the spirit of Geneva," the letter said: "the reversion to inflexible attitudes, characteristic of the pre-Geneva period, establishing pre-conditions to negotiations, can lead either to a breakdown in direct discussions or embarassment and loss of face."

"Since it is very improbable that there will be a total surrender by either side on the question of German unification we urge the consideration of compromise alternatives which will take into account the legitimate security needs of all nations involved."

The letter also proposed that "concrete steps be taken to open trade on the vast scale needed by all countries both East and West" and that "no effort be spared to further consider the strengthening of the United Nations through expanding its membership to include universal participation, granting a seat to all stable legitimate governments and using its good offices as a vehicle for negotiations between states where possible."

Those signing the letter included Mr. Ernest T. Weir, President of the National Steel Corporation; Mrs. Mildred Scott-Olmstead, of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom; Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President of Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia; Mr. James P. Warburg, writer and philanthropist; and Fred. W. Stover, President of the Iowa Farmers' Union and member of the World Council of Peace.

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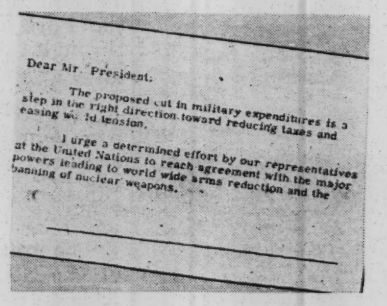
A resolution urging the U.S. Government to go to the Foreign Ministers' Conference in the "same spirit and understanding" as at Geneva, was passed recently by the 20th Convention of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers, meeting in Cleveland, Ohio. As a first step towards elimination of nuclear weapons, the Convention urged efforts for world agreement to stop further dangerous experiments with atomic and thermonuclear devices. The resolution also called for universal disarmament.


Dear Mr. President,

The proposed cut in military expenditures is a step in the right direction toward reducing taxes and easing world tension.

I urge a determined effort by our representatives at the United Nations to reach agreement with the major powers leading to world wide arms reduction and the banning of nuclear weapons.

Postcards like that in our picture are being sent by Californians to President Eisenhower urging a determined effort by U.S. "representatives at the United Nations to reach agreement with the major powers leading to world wide arms reduction and the banning of nuclear weapons." The postcards welcome the President's "proposed cut in military expenditure (as) a step in the right direction toward reducing taxes and easing world tension."

Urging wide use of the postcards, the Northern California Peace Council says "the voice of the people is the strongest weapon for peace today!" "Today, in the shadow of the A and H bombs," the Council says, "a vast new impetus for world-wide disarmament has a risen. It comes from the people through the organised peace movement, through their churches, through their spontaneous letters. The popular demand to ban the bombs and disarm is pressing the statesmen into higher levels of agreement towards negotiating peaceful solutions... The gains of the Geneva 'summit Conference' will be consolidated, and compromise and negotiation will continue if we, the people, speak up decisively for such action."

Statement by the Italian Peace Committee

THE National Committee of the Italian Peace Movement met in Rome on October 18 to examine the new prospects for action by the Movement in the light of the recent meeting of the Bureau of the World Council and the new international situation. The Committee decided to call a National Congress of the Movement for December 17—18 and unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"There are only a few days left before the Foreign Ministers of the four Great Powers meet. The hope of all mankind is centred on Geneva, that the same spirit that guided the Big Four in July, may lead to effective agreements to ensure co-existence and peace on a basis of mutual respect. These negotiations do not appear easy and it will be a labourious task to bring the different positions together. This is especially because the forces which oppose the Geneva spirit and the interests of those who still have a stake in the Cold War have not given up but wish to reverse the current trend towards the relaxation of international tension. This trend, however, is irreversible since it is the heritage of the trust of all the peoples of the world.

"The Italian Peace Committee invites all Italians irrespective of party or ideology or walk of life to make their hopes known and to stress the urgent need for constructive progress along the lines indicated by the four Heads of State. This should be done in every possible way by messages, resolutions, letters signed by whole families, and by deputations to the Foreign Ministers' meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

"The recent campaign by certain political and social groups against the *détente* and the efforts to impose, through a so-called "European regrouping," the terms not of a European system but of an ideological conflict, are dangerous and serious signs of forces which are banking, in our country too, on the division of mankind and the Cold War.

"The Italian Peace Committee, in greeting all endeavours, proposals and initiatives, like the recent conference of the mayors of the world's capitals in Florence, which tend to bring new forces into action on the Italian and world peace front, and in expressing its warm thanks to its President Mr. Pietro Nenni for his untiring work for peace, calls on the Government to reflect the hope of public opinion by working diplomatically and politically in favour of the *détente*, which is in harmony with the national interests of many countries.

"The most urgent topics on which the unity of all citizens can be won and constructive Italian initiative shown are these:

1. Co-existence based on a collective security pact; disarmament of both atomic and conventional weapons; and an end to the division of the world into opposing blocs;

"2. Admission of Italy to the United Nations along with other countries entitled to membership;

"3. Elimination of foreign bases on Italian soil and in all other countries.

The Italian Peace Committee is opening a wide discussion on these topics, which will be carried on through local meetings, local and regional congresses, and finally at the National Congress of the Italian Peace Movement to be held on December 17—18, so that Italy can make the biggest and most effective contribution possible to the building of a peaceful world."

O THE FOREIGN MINISTERS

Campaign of propaganda and action in France

THAT the hopes aroused by the success of the Geneva Four Power Conference may be the means of winning new successes is the aim of the activities now taking place in France in the National Peace Council's campaign of propaganda and action.

Many popular assemblies, the main form of activity, have taken place, and others are being planned. 21 popular assemblies, for example, were held in the Bouches-du-Rhone Department within a week of the National Peace Council's launching of the campaign.

These peace discussions are taking various forms in many Departments, ranging from meetings with workers in canteens or cafes near their works to meetings in blocks of flats in the big towns and village gatherings called by the mayor, the schoolmaster or the leader of a local organisation.

In most cases a letter is sent to the Prime Minister signed by those taking part, a collection is made, and the basis laid for setting up a new peace committee.

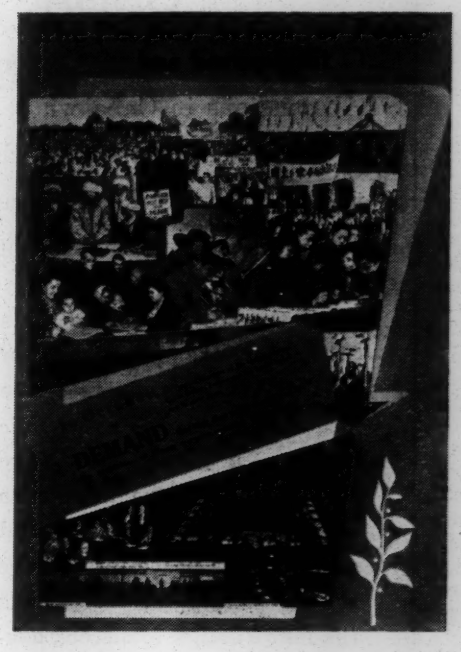
To promote the success of the campaign the Peace Movement has produced a special four-page folder to help with the holding of popular assemblies, and a series of four leaflets on disarmament, the security problem and the settlement of the German question, and the problems of Viet Nam and North Africa.

Big cantonal and Department rallies are already planned, which will reflect trend of opinion stimulated by the smaller meetings and the various activities being carried on. A rally was held in Montchanin (Saône-et-Loire) on October 30 with the Socialist Mayor in the chair, and a deputation was elected to go to Geneva. Fourteen Department or regional rallies are planned for the period ending November 23.

The French people's activity to ensure the success of the Geneva Conference is not confined to this. Some Department Peace Committees and Municipal Councils, like that of Antibes (Alpes-Maritimes), have written to Mr. Edgar Faure asking him, to quote the resolution of the Antibes Council, "to give precise instructions to his Foreign Minister to help see that the present Geneva Conference is carried on in the same spirit as that of the Heads of Government in July." The same call has been made in one form or another by three great national organisations.

The French Union of Ex-servicemen (2,500,000 members) has made "an urgent appeal to the four Foreign Ministers to negotiate in the spirit of the previous Geneva Conference and to conclude an agreement to guarantee European security and settle the German problem, and to limit armaments and the armed forces and prepare the way to a system of total disarmament."

The National Council of the Union of FrenchWomen has also sent a letter to the Prime Minister, asking for "the French representative to express the deep feelings of the French people"; while the General Confederation of Labour (C.G.T.) has called on workers to send representative deputations to Geneva from works and offices and to step up pressure on the Foreign Ministers, Heads of Government, M.P.s and local councillors.



This poster produced by the Secretariat of the World Council of Peace brings out the action of the peoples as one of the essential factors in the success of the Geneva Conference, and puts forward the essential demands of public opinion on the eve of the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

All India conference for Asian solidarity

The All India Conference for Asian Solidarity, held in Hyderabad on October 21, 22 and 23, was attended by more than 1,000 delegates. The agenda dealt with political, cultural, social and economic questions and Asian problems.

Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru, President of the Indian Committee for Asian Solidarity, explained the idea of the Conference, held on the eve of the Foreign Ministers' meeting at Geneva, in a letter addressed to Indian organisations and personalities, in which she said: "At the end of October the Four Foreign Ministers will meet and it is necessary for public opinion in every country to assert itself to ensure the success of this meeting."

Owing to lack of space, a full report of the conference proceedings has had to be held over until our next issue.

Telegrams, messages, resolutions and petitions have been sent to Geneva expressing Indian opinion on international problems in general and the problems of Asian security in particular.

Fortnight of action in Brazil

The Executive Committee of the Brazilian Peace Movement ran a special two-week campaign from October 9 to 24. In an appeal to the Brazilian people, the Movement stressed the need to make this fortnight a great success so as to make the Brazilian people's will for peace known to the four Foreign Ministers at Geneva.

Emphasising that the disarmament question is on the Geneva agenda, the movement calls on the Brazilian public unremittingly to express its desire to have atomic weapons abolished. The Movement expressed its confidence that the people's action would help bring victory at Geneva for the spirit of peaceful co-existence among the nations.

To ensure the success of the fortnight's campaign, the Executive of the Movement took the following measures:

— fixed targets for each state;
— organised a national day of public meetings on October 25 to bring the fortnight to a culmination;
— arranged for members of the National Council's Presiding Committee and Secretariat, and other leading figures in the Movement, to tour the provinces not only to represent the National Movement at meetings, but to help organise them.

THE SPIRIT OF GENEVA

FRENCH SUDAN GREETS DETENTE

The Committee of the Peace Movement of the French Sudan met at Bamako on October 7, 1955, and at the end of its meeting adopted a resolution in which it "notes with satisfaction the easing of international tension and the success already obtained thanks to the joint action and vigilance of world public opinion and the forces for peace."

It strongly expressed the hope that "the forthcoming meeting of the Foreign Ministers of France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States will bring a general pacification to the whole world and remove from the minds of rulers any idea of a war involving the use of weapons which have been condemned by the peoples... of all countries."

Dealing with the great importance of the Helsinki Assembly, the resolution further declared that "a campaign of explanation and dissemination of the results of Helsinki was a deciding factor in enabling public opinion energetically to oppose a third world war and prevent the use of atomic and thermonuclear weapons... Indeed, every country in the world has everything to gain from the peaceful use of atomic energy."

CUBA: 400 sign letter to President

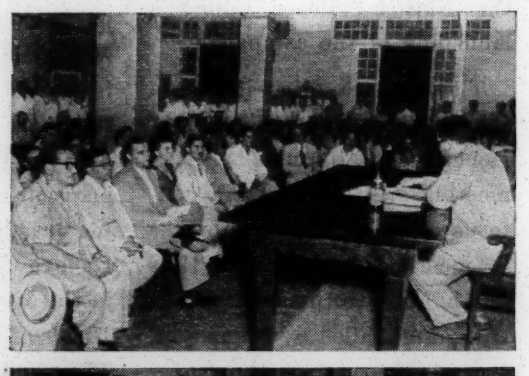
THE results of the Conference of the Four Heads of Government have had great repercussions in Cuba where public opinion has become increasingly convinced that there are now new prospects for the peaceful settlement of disputed issues. In the period between the Summit Conference and the Foreign Ministers' Conference there have been various activities aiming to promote development of the "Geneva spirit."

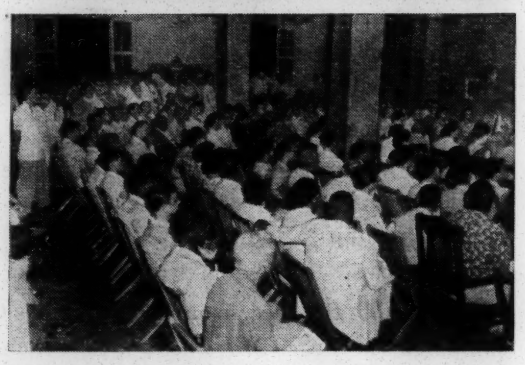
At the Havana Fine Arts Circle, for example, Professor J. Moronta explained "the meaning of Geneva" at a public lecture. He showed that there are forces that would like to bring back the cold war and also that the peace forces have the possibility of influencing the four Foreign Ministers, asking them to make progress in easing tension by giving a just solution of the problems they have the task of resolving. Four hundred people took part in the meeting and signed a letter asking the President of the Republic and the Government to pursue a foreign policy inspired by "the Geneva Spirit."

The statement by Professor Joliot-Curie published in the Bulletin of the World Council of Peace (No. 15 for 1955) was studied by peace committees during September and October. A national campaign was organised to enable Cuban public opinion to express its desire for peace on the eve of the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

At the same time the campaign against the preparation of atomic war continued. Havana brewery workers, particularly those of the three biggest breweries — Havana Polar, Tropical and Hatuey, — endorsed the Vienna Appeal.

In the province of Las Villas, a number of personalities issued a statement associating themselves with the appeal made by the scientists who met in London on the initiative of Bertrand Russell and asking for further advance along the road opened by the Geneva Conference. This statement was published in all the newspapers and was supported by university rectors and professors, well-known scientists, high officials of the Ministry of Education, leaders of students' organisations, national leaders of Catholic movements, and others.





Professor J. Moronta lecturing to the Havana Fine Arts Circle.

NETHERLANDS: Peace Council calls for action

The activity carried ont by the Dutch Peace Movement in recent months, particularly against German rearmament and the preparation of atomic war, and to popularise the results of the World Assembly for Peace, have strengthened its influence throughout the country. A new Peace Council, reflecting this growing influence, was elected at a meeting on October 1st. It is composed of 50 personalities of widely differing political views and social circles: writers, officials, professors and teachers, ministers of religion and trade union leaders. An executive committee of 17 people was elected.

The new Council immediately issued an appeal to all who wish to maintain the Geneva spirit and called on them to take action:

— for reduction of armaments and the banning of atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, under international control;
— for the consolidation of European security and peaceful solution of the German problem;
— for the strengthening of commercial, economic and cultural relations between East and West;
— for loyal adherence to the United Nations Charter.

In the Vienna Appeal campaign, more than 170,000 signatures have been collected in Holland. A letter asking the Government to go on record for the banning of atomic weapons at the United Nations has been signed by more than 400 doctors; while the executive committee of the General Association of Teachers has called on the organisations next congress to demand the banning of atomic weapons.

BELGIUM: public opinion can ensure success

An extended meeting of the executive committee of the Belgian Union for the Defence of Peace was held in Brussels on October 8.

In view of the forthcoming Foreign Ministers' Conference, it called on all who understood the importance of consolidating peace to continue their efforts.

"The pressure of public opinion," it stated, "greatly contributed to the success of the Geneva Conference in July. It can also help to make these new negotiations a success, provided that it is vigilant and informed."

"The Belgian Union for the Defence of Peace will rejoice at any agreement making for a closer exchange of views."

A Meeting for Détente and Disarmament was decided upon.

MUST LEAD TO AGREEMENT

German Peace Society urges bringing the two German states together

IN recent weeks many sections of the German people have strongly expressed their will to see a concrete agreement between the two parts of Germany so that questions of vital importance to Germany may be settled. There is also growing activity to obtain representation at Geneva by a delegation from the two German States. Thus the German Peace Society, meeting at its congress in Brunswick on October 9, adopted the following statement:

"The obvious *détente* which has come about in the relations between the Great Powers demands that negotiations at the Geneva Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs should be conducted on the basis of equal rights rather than from a position of strength.

"Practical steps can be taken which represent a step towards the elimination of war.

"The German Peace Society considers that the Four Foreign Ministers can and must reach first agreements on the question of disarmament. Such agreements would be a big step towards a system of collective security, since they would help to diminish further mistrust between the Great Powers and to smooth the differences between the military blocs...

"The sovereignty of the Federal Republic and the dignity of the German people impose on the Federal Government the duty of taking part in the deliberations of the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Geneva when German problems are under discussion.

"Participation by the Government of the German Democratic Republic must not be made a reason for refusal by the Federal Government...

"The German Peace Society considers that the time has come to bring about a rapprochement between the two German States through negotiations between the two governments and consultations between groupings and institutions in the two parts of the country. There could be no more important German contribution to the peace of Europe."

This statement was signed by the President of the German Peace Society, Dr. Wenzel, Social Democratic member of the Federal Parliament; and the Charimen: Mr. Bangel, director of municipal services of the town of Castrop-Rauxel, a member of the Social Democratic Party; and Mr. Stierwaldt, a merchant.

This same demand for agreement between the two parts of Germany is being voiced in many factories; and practical steps towards its realisation are in preparation. At a meeting of public transport employees of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen it was decided to join with the tramwaymen of Dresden, in the German Democratic Republic, in sending a delegation to Geneva.

A joint conference of foundry workers from Salzgitter in the German Federal Republic and copper miners from Eisleben in the German Democratic Republic sent a letter to the Geneva Conference asking that the German people's desire for peace be taken into account and favouring the creation of a system of collective security for the whole of Europe which the two German States could join.

DENMARK: LETTER TO GOVERNMENT

The Danish Peace Committee has published an address to the members of the Government and Parliament which has aroused great interest in the country and was commented on by radio Copenhagen.

The address states in part: "For years the ceaselessly growing military expenditure has imposed a heavy burden on the Danish people, resulting in a very considerable worsening of their living standards.

"As a result of the changes in the international situation, the time seems ripe for Denmark, too, to make a reduction in its enormous military expenditure. By taking such a step our country would also be making an important contribution to a further easing of international tension..."

AUSTRALIA: conference for policy of peace and co-existence

The New South Wales Peace Council has decided to hold a State Conference in Sydney on November 26 and 27 on the theme of "an Australian policy of peace and co-existence."

To this end it has sent various organisations and public figures a letter in which it says that many Australians from different sections of the community have recently expressed their anxiety at the fact that Australia seems to be remaining outside the new spirit of agreement and international co-operation engendered by the Summit Meeting in Geneva.

The letter goes on to say that plans for testing nuclear weapons next year both inside and outside Australia, the sending of Australian forces to Malaya, the building of an arms factory at St. Marie, the embargo on trade, the restriction on imports, etc. create a threat not only to the living standards of Australians, but to their very existence and to friendly relations with other peoples.

Two themes are proposed for discussion:

1) Friendly relations with all countries in the diplomatic, cultural and commercial fields as the road to peaceful co-existence.

2) Reduction of armaments and use atomic energy for peace for the full development of Australia's resources for peaceful ends.

Canadian Peace Forum

More than 20,000 calls to the Canadian Peace Forum to be held on November 5 have been issued by provincial and local peace committees. The distribution of invitations exceeds that for any previous national peace congress in Canada. "This record distribution of calls to a national peace conference," says the publicity secretary of the Canadian Peace Congress, Mr. Ted Baxter, "will ensure that many thousands of Canadians who are prevented by distance or the pressure of work from attending the Forum personally will be able to enrol as corresponding delegates, or at least to read the call and give serious thought to the issues which will be up for discussion... This sort of widespread participation will give powerful support to the pressure of public opinion in favour of peaceful negotiations."

The Chairman of the British Columbia Peace Council, Mr. Ray Gardner, was the first delegate to register for the Canadian Peace Forum. Mr. Gardner enclosed over 1,000 signatures to the Vienna Appeal with his registration, to become the 12th Canadian to collect more than 1,000 signatures to the Appeal. Eight others live in Vancouver, British Columbia, where a total of more than 45,000 signatures had been collected at September 16. In Vancouver, 1,000 signatures were collected on street corners in one day. There is "not the slightest doubt," says Mr. Gardner, "that the great change has had its impact right on the street."

The newly re-elected President of the Montreal Peace Council, Mr. Pierre St.-Germain, well known Catholic journalist, has called for a large delegation from Quebec, truly representative of French Canadian opinion, to attend the Canadian Peace Forum. "We must ensure that the spirit of Geneva continues in the years to come," Mr. St. Germain said. "We must remove forever the threat of war by abolishing nuclear weapons and achieving the first united steps on the road to diarmament."

"Let world opinion be the guiding conscience of that all-important conference," said Dr. J. G. Endicott, President of the Canadian Peace Congress, commenting on the conference of Foreign Ministers on the eve of his departure to attend the Bureau of the World Council of Peace in Vienna. Calling for more Canadian signatures to the Vienna Appeal, Dr. Endicott said: "Make your opinion known. It will count. Remember that the directives from the summit meeting to the foreign ministers were instructions to examine all proposals, and to find suitable solutions for security pacts which will make German reunification possible, for disarmament, trade and cultural exchange."

Representatives of 37 capitals of promise peace and friendship in

A conference of the mayors of the world's capitals took place in the Cinquecento Hall of the Palazzo della Signoria in Florence on October 2—5. It was convened by Mr. La Pira, Christian Democrat Mayor of Florence, on behalf of the City Council. Taking part were nearly 70 mayors and councillors from 37 countries, in addition to many mayors and administrators from the principal towns and cities of Italy. The Italian Government was officially represented, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Segni, sent a message of support to Mr. La Pira. The following countries were represented: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burma, China, Czechoslovakia, El Salvador, Finland, France, the German Federal Republic, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Laos, Liberia, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, the United States, the U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia. A representative of the city of Jerusalem was also present. The meeting ended with the unanimous adoption of a resolution and a letter to the United Nations, and the formal signing of a peace pact. On these pages we present the text of these documents and a report from a special correspondent on this important event, which has aroused considerable attention throughout the world and made an important contribution to the lessening of international tension.

From a Special Correspondent

"THIS meeting will be recorded in letters of gold in the great book of human history," said the Mayor of Bombay in his speech, describing the Meeting of Mayors of the world's capitals which was held in Florence from October 2-5 last. These words, which may seem rhetorical, are on the contrary scarcely strong enough to convey the importance of this exceptional gathering and of the solemn peace pact signed by the representatives of the capitals of four continents. Mr. La Pira, Mayor of Florence, made the Mayor of Bombay's statement his own, and repeated it sincerely and simply in the short speech he made as soon as the 37 had finished going one by one to the great table to sign the parchment of the Pact of Peace.

Yes, this meeting in Florence was a memorable event; and all that was said from the platform of the Palazzo della Signoria from October 2-5, the conclusions reached, and the 37 signatures on the parchment of the Peace Pact, written in Latin and Greek, will remain as evidence of something new in the relations between the peoples and countries of the earth. When Mr. La Pira presented his colleagues one by one to Cardinal Della Costa, the highest church dignitary in Florence, — colleagues of different races and religions, living under opposing social and political systems — it emphasised the need for meetings and collaboration on a footing of equality and mutual respect at all levels (diplomatic, municipal and popular) as the foundation and precondition for a peaceful future.

We must also point out the great international repercussions of this Meeting, the support and approval it won in the Soviet Union and in India, in America and in China, and stress the significance of the decision to send a resolution to the United Nations and to the Four Foreign Ministers who will meet in Geneva. We must mention the value of the letter sent to the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the mayors of cities in which the heritage of civilisations — indivisible parts of human civilisation as a whole — are conserved. The letter asks for agreement on the banning of atomic weapons, disarmament, collective security and German reunification, agreement to use every innovation in nuclear technology and the financial resources of the various countries to improve the peoples' living standards.

Coming down the steps of the Palazzo della Signoria at the end of the meeting, the Mayor of Florence said to a group of friends that the Church has passed through three worlds, that of slavery, the corporative world of the Middle Ages, and the bourgeois world, and that today it is on the threshold of the socialist world. Mr. La Pira has the soul of a missionary; he is a Catholic profoundly convinced of the truth of his ideal, but the importance of his position lies in the conclusions he draws from it: that the Church cannot ignore or forget reality, much less launch a crusade for the ideological conquest of a new world to which an ever-growing number of people look as being the world of justice and of the future. Instead of trying to impose itself in accordance with the theses of the cold war, let the Catholic Church show its worth in peaceful ideological competition (and the final resolution speaks significantly of "religious exchanges"). Not only this, for today one the tasks of the Catholic world, because of its "universality," is to exercise the function of mediation which was at the heart of this Meeting, to preserve mankind's chief good, peace, by ensuring co-existence between different systems, different religions and irreconcilable political ideas. To this, which expresses the views of the Catholic trends which follow or draw their inspiration from Mr. La Pira, must be added the words spoken from the platform by the Catholic La Pira and the Protestant Wilkinson, by the non-believer Yasnov and by the Brahman from Thailand, to the effect that mankind will derive great benefit from mutual knowledge, from free comparison of political and administrative systems and of different civilisations.

The Florence Meeting has shown that, in Italy as throughout the world, a new situation is ripening which will allow the various ideologies and political systems to extend their collaboration and discussion in order to resolve international problems and maintain peace.

Final Resolution

We mayors and representatives of mayors of the capitals of 37 countries, meeting in Florence from October 2-6, unanimously endorse the following resolution:

1) We affirm the value of the city as a spiritual and material heritage of vital importance to the whole of mankind, a heritage that past generations have left to the generations of the future to be passed on and increased, not wasted.

2) We state that if, through war, this sound inheritance, created and developed by the work of many generations, were to be destroyed, it would be an act against civilisation and would cause irreparable material and spiritual losses not only to the present generation, but to all mankind and even to future generations.

3) We therefore invite the men responsible for the destiny of nations to renounce war and to settle international differences in a spirit of collaboration through the sole medium of peace and constructive negotiations. We also ask that fruitful relations between the various countries be intensified and extended, with the aim of multiplying peaceful contacts in the technical, economic, social, political, cultural and religious fields in order to establish a just, stable and active peace among all the peoples of the world.

(Drawn up by a Commission composed of Mr. Yasnov, Mayor of Moscow, Mr. Wilkinson, former London alderman, and Mr. La Pira, and adopted unanimously.)

Mr. La Pira (centre) between the Mayor of Delhi and the Chairman of the Moscow Municipal Soviet.

Letter to the United Nations

We mayors of 37 capitals and other great cities of Europe, Asia and Africa, meeting in Florence from October 2-6, 1955, warmly greet the delegates to the Ninth General Assembly of the United Nations and ask them to accept our most sincere good wishes for the success of the Assembly's work.

We are certain that we express the desire and the will of the millions of inhabitants of our cities in stating that they want to live on good terms with each other and do their utmost to increase mutual knowledge and understanding, in order to strengthen collaboration and friendship with all the cities and peoples of the world.

It is a matter of the greatest importance for us mayors that atomic energy, all modern technical discoveries and all the financial resources of our countries should be used, not to wipe out our cities but to develop them and to construct new houses, schools, hospitals, gardens and monuments.

With a strong desire to see a secure and lasting peace established in the world, we ask the General Assembly of the United Nations, on behalf of the millions of citizens of our capitals, to redouble its efforts to reach as soon as possible agreements on the banning of atomic weapons, effective dis-

the world Florence

armament, and the establishment of a system of collective security for all the countries of Europe and the world on the basis of respect for the national independence and sovereignty of all peoples.

Pact of Peace

The mayors of the world's capitals, meeting in the great Hall of the Cinquecento in the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence promise each other peace and friendship.

October 4, 1955
Feast-day of St. Francis of Assisi, Patron of Peace.

Drawn up on parchment in Latin and Greek and signed by all the participants, including the following personalities: Ibrahim Sina, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Tirana People's Council; Karl Honay, Deputy Burgomaster of Vienna; De Rons, counsellor to the Mayor of Brussels; U Sein Pe, mayor of Rangoon; Dimitri Popov, Chairman of the Executive Committee of Sofia; Adolf Svoboda, mayor of Prague; Shu Shi-shan, Vice-Minister of Education of the People's Government of China, deputising for the Mayor of Peking; Ernesto Truqueros Alcaine, deputising for the Mayor of San Salvador; Eero Rydman, Burgomaster of Helsinki; De Vericourt, Vice-Chairman of the Paris Municipal Council; Peter M. Busen, Burgomaster of Bonn; George Wilkinson, former London alderman; R. N. Agrawala, Mayor of New Delhi; Narsingrao C. Pupala, Mayor of Bombay; Porwokusumo, Mayor of Jakarta; Nosratollach Mantasser, Mayor of Teheran; Gershon Agro, Mayor of Jerusalem; Salvatore Rebecchini, Mayor of Rome; Milos Minic, Chairman of the Belgrade People's Committee; Tiaio Khematnh, Mayor of Vientiane (Laos); Philip C. Parker, Mayor of Monrovia (Liberia); Arn J. d'Ailli, Burgomaster of Amsterdam; Malik Bagh Ali, Mayor of Karachi; Angelo Valetti, deputising for the Mayor of Panama; Llosa Pantrat, deputising for the Mayor of Lima; Jerzy Albrecht, Chairman of the Warsaw Presidium; Alvaro Salvator Barreta, Chairman of the Lisbon Municipal Chamber; Stefan Balan, Chairman of the Bucharest Executive Committee; Mr. Soler, Deputy Mayor of Madrid; Mr. Wolmarans, Mayor of Capetown; Carl Albert Anderson, Chairman of the Stockholm Municipal Council; Mankoru Promyodi, Mayor of Bangkok; Kalman Pongracz, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Budapest Municipal Council; Mr. Yasnov, Chairman of the Moscow Soviet; and Mr. Nguyen Phu Hai, Mayor of Saigon.

A view of the hall during the Mayors' meeting.

All India Trade Union Congress Calls on Workers

MEETING at Indore on September 21—25, the All India Trade Union Congress, which makes a great contribution to peace campaigns, adopted an important resolution on the international situation and the role of Indian workers in the struggle for the banning of weapons of mass destruction. The resolution says:

"The General Council of the AITUC welcomes the improvement in the international atmosphere following the Geneva Conference of the Four Powers and the measures instituted by the peace-loving powers for the relaxation of international tension. The armaments drive and the diversion of huge sums of state expenditure for military purposes have resulted in increased poverty and unemployment for the workers.

"The programme of action adopted at the World Assembly for Peace held in Helsinki, which was attended by representatives of the AITUC, deserves the full support of all peace-loving people. The General Council calls upon trade unions to campaign for support to the proposals for general and controlled disarmament, and appeals to them to make a special effort on October 7, which will be observed as Peace Day, to collect the largest possible number of signatures for the Vienna Appeal. The trade unions must take the lead in mobilising public opinion on the still unresolved issues of peace like the admission of People's China to the United Nations, and the return of Taiwan to the People's Republic of China."

The AITUC then expressed its unreserved support for the principles of peaceful co-existence of Bandung and congratulated the Indian Government on its contribution to the maintenance of peace and international co-operation.

Lebanese People Increase Efforts for Banning of Atomic Weapons

The situation in the Near and Middle East as a result of the growing danger of military pacts and blocs, the continuing peril of weapons of mass destruction, and the need for the people of the Lebanon to increase their efforts for the banning of these weapons, are dealt with in a statement published by the Executive Committee of the Lebanese Peace Council.

After analysing the positive results of the Geneva Conference of the Four Heads of Government, the statement lists the various problems which remain unresolved. "Atomic and hydrogen weapons are still not banned; and the Arab countries continue to be a field of activities and pressure to set up military pacts and aggressive blocs there.

"It is clear that renunciation of any idea of military pacts and aggressive blocs must figure among the first results of the *détente* so as to avert for ever the monstrosity of war.

"The present situation in the Middle East, as throughout the world, is favourable to peace activity, for the peoples are more than ever ready to uphold and support the proposals of the Peace Movement. The most recent developments in the political situation have proved once again that the peoples can change the course of world political events to the advantage of peace and their freedom and independence.

"The Executive Committee of the Lebanese Peace Council, while noting our people's active participation in the world campaign against the preparation of atomic war, stresses that this result is the fruit of the development of national aspirations in opposition to the colonialists and their military pacts. In turn, the signature campaign helped to strengthen the unity of the national forces of various tendencies."

Scientific Workers Recommend International Conference to Ban Atomic Arms

The World Federation of Scientific Workers held its Fourth General Assembly in Berlin from September 23-25 last. It was attended by more than 80 scientists from many countries, including China, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Poland and the Soviet Union. The points on the agenda were the application of atomic energy to peaceful ends, the social responsibility of scientists, and the struggle to improve the living standards of scientific workers. At the end of its work the Assembly adopted the two following resolutions.

Resolution on International Scientific Conference on the Dangers of Nuclear Weapons

The use of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons in war would produce a disaster beyond any in human history. The full extent of the death and suffering it would cause cannot yet be gauged. Many of its consequences are indeed at present unpredictable. From facts already available, however, we know that it could produce hundreds of millions of victims and serious genetic and other long term effects. Even the experimental explosions of nuclear weapons have caused death and disease. These horrors have been made possible as a consequence of scientific discoveries and it is the first duty of scientists to do all in their power to prevent their occurrence.

The Assembly accordingly welcomes the initiative already taken by numerous scientific organisations and individuals in protesting against atomic war. We join them in urging on all governments the conclusion of negotiations which would make it impossible.

The effectiveness of the action of scientists greatly depends on the achievement of co-operation between them. Here the success of the Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy has already shown what can be done. However, from the very fact that the dangers of the military uses of atomic energy could not be discussed there it is evident that, for the purpose of preventing atomic war, the Geneva Conference is not enough.

A further conference of comparable importance and authority is still urgently needed. It should examine, in the light of indisputable facts, the nature of atomic warfare and the ways of averting it. It would consider the scientific aspects of the problem of the prohibition of atomic weapons and the possibilities of ensuring their adequate control. The conference, apart from its scientific contribution, would serve the indispensable purpose of providing the public with reliable information of vital importance to them.

Such a conference to be effective must be of the widest character embracing scientists in all principal countries and of different opinions.

The Federation declares its willingness to give its fullest support to any sufficiently qualified and representative conference. Such a conference was called for in the letter signed by Bertrand Russell, Albert Einstein, Frederic Joliot-Curie and other world-famous scientists. It should give effective expression to the moral responsibilities of scientists. The Federation will co-operate in this with other organisations of scientists to ensure that a conference is held as soon as it is technically possible. It is in this way, we are convinced, that scientists can best contribute to preventing atomic warfare and securing a permanent peace.

Resolution on International Scientific Collaboration

This Assembly welcomes with enthusiasm the recent amelioration in the relations between the powers which has followed from the Geneva Conference between the Heads of States, and the possibilities thus created for greatly extending international scientific collaboration. An outstanding example of these possibilities has been provided by the Geneva Conference on "Atoms for Peace."

The Assembly expresses its deep conviction that the wide extension of such collaboration is of great importance in contributing to the maintenance of peace, to the strengthening and development of the different national scientific traditions, and to the promotion of human welfare all over the world. Only through such collaboration, and the establishment of friendly relations and mutual respect between the scientists of different countries, will the present possibilities of advance, and the great perspectives which are beginning to open out for the future, be realised.

The Federation is therefore deeply concerned to promote international collaboration, with all the means at its disposal and in association with other organisations. The Federation will help to find the wide variety of concrete forms in which the collaboration must be practised, and to assist in removing all the differences which may hinder the free exchanges between scientists in different countries.

The Assembly, deeply concerned with the problems of the young scientists, urges all scientists of the older generation to assist and support them with the benefit of their experience and advice. It also instructs the Executive Council to take all possible steps to promote international understanding and friendship between young scientists of the world.

Andersen Commemoration in Uruguay

Lectures and celebrations are being held in various parts of Montevideo to commemorate the great cultural anniversaries. For example, Carmen Lozoya, a student, gave a talk to children at the cultural centre Cerrito de la Victoria on the life and works of Hans Christian Andersen. Films for children were also shown and books of Andersen's tales were given to the youngsters.

European Society for Culture Wants Closer International Links between Peoples

The European Society for Culture, which includes in its membership many intellectuals and artists in various fields recently held its Fifth General Assembly in Brussels, attended by cultural figures from Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland and Switzerland and other European countries. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth of Belgium attended the opening session, together with the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Vermeylen, and the Minister of Education, Mr. Collard, who addressed the Assembly.

Mr. Ponti, president of the Society, read a general report on the work done since the previous Assembly. He defined the aim of the Society as being to foster friendship between intellectuals of different countries and different tendencies, and paid tribute to the memory of Matisse, Thomas Mann, Leger and other members of the Society who had died recently.

Then there was discussion on a report entitled "The European Idea and the Policy for Culture" presented by the general secretary, Mr. Umberto Campagnolo.

At the final session, held in Brussels Town Hall, the following resolution was adopted:

"The Fifth Ordinary General Assembly of the European Society for Culture was held in Brussels from October 5-9, 1955. Having examined the crisis in Europe in relation to the demands of culture, and particularly the problem of the relations between the nation and the state,

"The Assembly notes

"1. that the relaxation of international tension creates more conditions for the development of relations between all men of culture, without distinction,

"2. that this still precarious *détente* is the result not only of government action but also of the action of the peoples, who are becoming more and more aware of their close solidarity,

"3. that there are nonetheless vast regions and many fields in which the crisis of the contemporary world is sharp and threatening.

"Consequently, the Assembly invites men of culture to remain vigilant and, seizing the opportunity offered to them by the *détente*, to widen and intensify their activity to multiply and intensify relations between men and peoples so that this affirmation of solidarity may overcome the antagonisms between states and eliminate all obstacles to the free development of culture."

Asian Writers' Conference Proposed

Last month some of the most eminent Indian writers sent colleagues a letter proposing that they should meet to call an Asian Writers' Conference. The text of the letter is as follows:

Dear Friend,

From October 21-23, 1955, an All India Conference of Asian Solidarity is being convened by Mrs. Rameshwari Nehru and the Indian Committee for Asian Solidarity to consider ways and means to implement the programme outlined by the Asian Conference held in New Delhi in April of this year.

It has been suggested that a number of Indian writers may meet on this occasion at Hyderabad, in order to discuss the possibilities of calling a conference of Asian writers, for which much feeling exists not only among the various sections of opinion in our country but also among the intellegentsia of the different countries of Asia.

For hundreds of years, the peoples of Asia have been subjected to foreign rule. And the many strands of Asiatic civilization were trampled under foot; our integral ways of life broken; our education systems perverted; and our whole culture sought to be debased. The surviving amalgam of civilisations and culture patterns in Asia shows confusion, in spite of the deep fervent in our midst; our ties with each other in the same country and our relations with our brothers in other countries of Asia, have just begun to be renewed after having been severed under imperialist domination.

It is urgently necessary that we should get together to analyse the sources of disruption and confusion in our midst; to evaluate our respective cultural heritages and to inaugurate an atmosphere of tolerance and friendship in which new creative works can be produced and shared among the various nations which are struggling forward towards a new future of freedom and peace.

The meeting of writers at Hyderabad at the time of the Asian Solidarity Conference from October 21 to 23 is designed to pool our energies together, so that we can outline a programme for immediate action and call a conference of Asian writers (such a conference is necessarily intended also to enable our many European friends to participate in our deliberations).

We hope that you will give mature consideration to this proposal and make every effort to attend the meeting.

Yours sincerely, Mulk Raj Anand, P.K. Atre, S. Bashyam, Manoj Bose, Banarsidas Chaturvedi, M.P., Raghunath Chowdhary, Gurbaksh Singh, Ali Sardar Jafri, P. Kothandaraman, Krishan Chandar, Joseph Mundassery, Nalini Bala Devi, Narana Doraikkhannan, S. Neelam, Sachin Sen Gupta, Mahakavi Sri Sri, Mahakavi Vallathol.

The signatories of the letter represent all the literary languages of India.

Mickiewicz Commemorations

in Austria...

A committee to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the death of Adam Mickiewicz has been set up in Austria, composed of prominent personalities including Dr. Linda Sadnik-Aitzetmüller, lecturer in Slavonic philology at Graz University; Professor Stanislaus Clement, of the French Institute in Vienna; Mr. Franz Theodor Csokor, writer, president of the Austrian PEN Club; Professor Otto Forst-Battaglia, of Vienna University; Professor Herbert Grau, director of the People's University in Linz; Professor Josef Gregor, former chief librarian of the National Library; Professor Hans Halm, of Innsbruck University; Dr. Franz Haring, director of municipal services in Graz; Professor Rudolf Jagoditsch, director of studies in Slavonic philology at Vienna University; Mr. Axel Leskoschek, president of the Austria-Poland Friendship Society; Professor Joseph Marx, director of the Society of Authors, Composers and Music Publishers.

The committee is holding a Mickiewicz Evening in Vienna on November 4, with a programme including works by the poet, read by Heinz Moog, an actor from the Vienna Burgtheater; songs by Chopin, Carl Loewe, Moniuszko and Paderewski based on poems by Mickiewicz and sung by Hans Braun, baritone of the Vienna Opera, and Hilde Rychlink, soprano; and works for piano by Chopin played by the Polish pianist Adam Harasiewicz.

...and in France

In honour of the great Polish poet, the French Committee for the Centenary of Mickiewicz held a concert and exhibition in the Maison de la Pensee Francaise in Paris at the end of October.

Bartok Year in Hungary

The memory of the great Hungarian composer Bela Bartok, to whom the World Council of Peace recently posthumously awarded a Peace Prize of Honour, will be honoured throughout Hungary during Bartok Year, from September 26, 1955, tenth anniversary of his death, to March 25, 1956, 75th anniversary of his birth.

On September 24 an exhibition of documents on the life and work of the great musician, including the manuscript of the Kossuth Symphony and that of the The Course of the Danube, composed by Bartok when he was nine years old, was officially opened in the National Museum. All the documents exhibited were being presented for the first time.

The same day, a monument to Bartok by the sculptor Andras Beck, Kossuth Prize winner, was unveiled in the halls of the Ferenc Liszt Higher School of Music in Budapest.

A memorial meeting organised by the Committee for the Commemoration of Bela Bartok was held in the Budapest Opera House on September 26. It was attended by Hungarian political figures, economists and intellectuals, members of the diplomatic corps and by Bartok's family. The opening speech was given by Zoltan Kodaly, the great composer and Kossuth Prize winner, who was Bartok's collaborator and most loyal friend. He was followed by Mr. Bence Szabolosi, Academician and Kossuth Prize winner, who spoke of Bartok's immortal works. The second part of the evening was devoted to a Bartok concert.

During Bartok Year the best Hungarian musicians and ensembles will present the composer's works at concerts organised by the National Philharmonic Society. Exhibitions will be held in 16 Hungarian towns, and committees are being set up everywhere to prepare the various events.

The Hungarian Radio is recording all Bartok's piano works as played by the best pianists and his choral compositions will also be broadcast.

The Hungarian Youth Federation has launched music and singing competitions in which more than 800 youth organisations and pioneer groups will take part.

The press contains many articles on the great composer, including memories by his friends and former pupils.

Finally, the Hungarian Post Office is issuing a commemorative series of stamps for Bartok Year.

Cultural Anniversaries for 1956

At its meeting on October 12 and 13 the Bureau of the World Council of Peace studied proposals submitted to it on the cultural anniversaries for 1956. It was decided to commemorate the following great figures of world culture:

KALIDASA, the Indian poet;

TOYA ODA, the Japanese painter known under the name of Sesshu, 1420—1506 (450th anniversary of his death);

REMBRANDT, the Dutch painter, 1606—1669 (350th anniversary of his birth);

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, the American scientist and publicist, 1706—1790 (250th anniversary of his birth);

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART, Austrian composer, 1756—1791 (200th anniversary of his birth);

HEINRICH HEINE, the German poet, 1779—1856 (100th anniversary of his death);

GEORGE BERNARD SHAW, the Irish writer, 1856—1950 (100th anniversary of his birth);

FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY, the Russian novelist, 1821—1881 (75th anniversary of his death);

PIERRE and MARIE CURIE, the French scientists (on the 50th anniversary of the death of Pierre Curie);

HENRIK IBSEN, the Norwegian dramatist, 1828—1906 (50th anniversary of his death).

World Federation of Trade Unions Wires the United Nations

TELEGRAM

The 28th Session of the Executive Bureau of the W.F.T.U., meeting from October 10 to 12, 1955, expressing the deep conviction not only of 85 million workers affiliated to the W.F.T.U. but also of the working people of the whole world, emphasises once again the fact that rearmament represents both a threat to peace and a factor in the constant decline of the living standards of the working people.

The Executive Bureau expresses its conviction that the spirit of negotiation manifest since the Geneva meeting has created favourable conditions for a positive solution of the questions of disarmament. It affirms the need for agreement between the great powers on the principles and rules of a substantial, simultaneous and controlled reduction in the size of military forces and armaments and on the use of the resources thus released to improve the living standards of the workers.

In order to secure in practice respect for the right of the peoples to self-determination, solemnly sanctioned by the United Nations Charter, the Executive Bureau hopes that the General Assembly will approve and take up the conclusions of the Bandung Conference, which brought together on the basis of the common strivings for independence, freedom and peace, the representatives of the countries of Asia, Africa and the Middle Peace.

The World Federation of Trade Unions, the trade unions and workers of all opinions hope that the General Assembly will reflect the striving for freedom common to all people in every country, by taking effective decisions for the cause of the progress of mankind and friendship among the peoples.

President: G. DI VITTORIO

General Secretary: L. SAILLANT

October 24 — Action Day in Sweden against Atomic Weapons

The Swedish Peace Committee has redoubled its activity in order to give public opinion an opportunity to express its peaceful aspirations in connection with the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

Though its campaign for signatures to the Vienna Appeal will be terminated at the end of November, the Swedish Committee has decided continue the campaign for the banning of atomic weapons in other ways.

In order to stimulate activity in the last month of signature collection for the Vienna Appeal, the Committee is awarding a Peace Diploma to everyone collecting more than 25 signatures. It also invited local peace committees to take advantage of October 24, United Nations Day and the tenth anniversary of the United Nations.

The Committee looks forward confidently to the success of this stage of the campaign against the preparation of atomic war, since it has been welcomed by the people from the start. In spite of organisational weaknesses in a number of local committees, good results have been obtained, and in some localities 85, 90 and even 95 per cent of the people have signed. Many organisations have adopted resolutions against atomic weapons; one such was adopted by 55 widely differing political, trade union, cultural, housewives' and other organisations.

Demonstration of the popular will has led Parliament to debate the problem of atomic weapons three times in the past year and has led the various parliamentary groups to make statements against these weapons.

In relation to the work of the World Assembly for Peace in Helsinki, which brought out the importance of co-operation between the forces for peace, the Swedish Peace Movement has set itself the task of creating conditions for co-operation between the forces of peace at local level, basing itself on the resolutions and recommendations of the different commissions at Helsinki. It considers that such a bringing together of the various forces for peace will help in the preparation of the Annual Assembly to be held in February, 1956.

For a peaceful settlement in North Africa

In a statement published on September 30, the Moroccan Peace Committee protests "against the continuing state of war in North Africa, whereas the centres of conflict that endangered peace in other parts of the world have all been eliminated thanks to the work of the peace forces who, from Bandung to Helsinki, have taken action to bring about a relaxation of international tension."

The statement declares that these military operations are "contrary to the United Nations Charter" and that it is urgently necessary to put an end to a situation so full of danger for world peace.

* * *

The Lebanese Peace Council has stated in an appeal that the campaign in North Africa is "in contradiction to the efforts to consolidate peace in the world." It demands that the policy of force in North Africa should give way to a policy of peace and negotiations.

* * *

In France, there is growing determination to see the problems of Algeria and Morocco settled peacefully. There is much activity, such as the setting up of committees for peace in North Africa, the drawing up of appeals signed in some cases by the Catholic priest and the Protestant minister of the village, and the adoption of motions by municipal councils.

The Assembly of French Cardinals and Archbishops, which has just held its autumn session in Paris, expressed the demand of the millions of Catholics for a negotiated settlement of North African problems in stating:

"The grievous events in North Africa pose serious and torturing problems for the conscience of all Frenchmen, and particularly of young men. This Assembly of Cardinals and Archbishops is profoundly moved by the situation...

'It is in a climate of friendship,' says the Assembly, "that the most difficult problems can be resolved. A peaceful approach to them will be the fruit of many fraternal contacts enabling all to express themselves freely."

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